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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/855,457	05/15/2001	K. Douglas Gennetten	10007458-1	9232

22879 7590 03/01/2005

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EXAMINER

SELBY, GEVELL V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/855,457

Applicant(s)

GENNETTEN, K. DOUGLAS

Examiner

Gevell Selby

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-25 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see the amendment, filed 10/11/04, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285 and Conoval, US 6,400,903.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 18 and 26 objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 18 and 26 are labeled "original" but should be labeled "Presently Amended".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285.**

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In regard to claim 26, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, discloses a method of displaying digital images comprising:

operating a digital camera prior to docking (see column 40, lines 9-12);

coupling a digital camera (see figure 29, element 1100) to a camera mount (see figure 29, element 1151) wherein the camera mount is electrically connected to said digital camera (see column 34, lines 50-60);

detecting docking of the camera (see column 36, lines 36-52); and

displaying digital images on an LCD (see figure 30, element 1103) of said digital camera in an electronic picture frame operating mode after detecting docking (see column 40, lines 9-12 and 31-50: It is inherent that when two docked cameras are connected over the phone line exchanging images, the images are displayed on the LCD of the camera).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-3, 5, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903.**

In regard to claim 1, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, discloses a camera dock (see figure 32) comprising:

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a mounting portion (see figure 33) for receiving a digital camera comprising a monitor (see figure 30, element 1103) for viewing images;

a port adapted to receive a cable for power and data connections (see column 34, lines 54-60 and column 37, lines 25-38); and

a camera docking interface in a physical and electronic configuration compliant with controls and surfaces of multiple various digital camera designs (see column 34, lines 54-60 and column 36, lines 5-15: The station or dock is designed to hold several different designs of the camera in the invention). The limitation that the camera docking interface is adapted to operate the digital camera as an electronic picture frame using the digital camera controls alone is an intended use. Since the reference discloses the structure of the docking interface, it is inherent that a digital camera attached to the docking interface may operate as an electronic picture frame using its own controls.

The Morikawa reference does not disclose a support portion pivotally coupled to said mounting portion wherein said support portion is in contact with a surface.

Conoval, US 6,400,903, discloses a camera dock comprising a support portion (see figure 3B, element 25) pivotally coupled to said mounting portion (see figure 3B, element 2) wherein said support portion is in contact with a surface (see figure 3B element 30 and column 9, lines 31-58).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of

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Conoval, US 6,400,903, to have a support portion pivotally coupled to said mounting portion wherein said support portion is in contact with a surface, in order to remotely rotate the camera to take pictures or view the display.

In regard to claim 2, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, discloses the camera dock of claim 1. The Morikawa reference discloses comprising:

a component coupled to the support portion, the component being camera tripod (see column 8, lines 46-48).

In regard to claim 3, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, discloses the camera dock of claim 1. The Morikawa reference discloses a camera mount with several function buttons including a selector switch for switching between the different modes of the device (see column 37, lines 16-21).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, to have a button for activating/deactivating an electronic picture frame function whereby a digital camera docked to the camera dock is selectively operated in a digital camera mode and an electronic picture frame mode in order to make the camera less complicated to operate by controlling multiple functions with the one button instead of multiple buttons.

In regard to claim 5, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, discloses the camera dock of Claim 1. The Conoval reference discloses

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wherein the support portion further comprises an infrared sensor (see figure 3B, element 28) for remote operation of the dock (see column 9, lines 55-58).

In regard to claim 9, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, discloses the camera dock of Claim 1. The Morikawa reference discloses comprising:

a digital camera coupled to the mounting portion, the digital camera comprising a processor (see figure 34, element 1016) programmed to receive images from a remote device and/or location via a communication interface selected from among a wired modem (see 34, lines 19-26).

In regard to claim 10, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, discloses the camera dock of Claim 1. The Morikawa reference discloses comprising:

a digital camera coupled to the mounting portion, the digital camera comprising a processor (see figure 34, element 1016) programmed to operate the digital camera as a camera prior to docking (see column 40 lines 9-12), detecting docking of the digital camera to the camera dock (see column 36, lines 44-52), and displaying images stored within the digital camera in an electronic picture frame operating mode after detecting docking (see column 40, lines 31-50: It is inherent that when two docked cameras are connected over the phone line exchanging images, the images are displayed on the LCD of the camera).

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In regard to claim 11, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, discloses the camera dock of Claim 1. The Morikawa reference discloses comprising:

a digital camera coupled to the mounting portion, the digital camera comprising a processor (see figure 34, element 1016) programmed to selectively operate the digital camera as a camera and as an electronic picture frame (see column 40, lines 9-12), the processor operating in the electronic picture frame mode including downloading images via internet connection from a website whereby digital images are stored or exchanged peer-to-peer (see column 41, lines 28-53).

In regard to claim 12, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, discloses the camera dock of Claim 1. The Morikawa reference discloses comprising:

a digital camera coupled to the mounting portion, the digital camera comprising a processor (see figure 34, element 1016) programmed to operate the digital camera as a camera prior to docking (see column 40 lines 9-12), detecting docking of the digital camera to the camera dock (see column 36, lines 44-52), detecting activation of a TV button indicating a connection between a television and the docked camera, and displaying a sequence of images with individual images of the sequence displayed for a selected time (see figure 32, elements 1161 and 1166 and column 37, lines 25-38: It is implied the camera sends a

sequence of images with images display for a selected time through the video ports to a TV in order to display images on the screen for a larger image).

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ganthier et al., US 6,081,422.

In regard to claim 4, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, discloses the camera dock of claim 1.

The Morikawa and Conoval references do not disclose wherein said support portion further comprises an indent on a bottom portion of the support portion so as to allow said cable to pass under the support portion with sufficient room so as to not lift the support portion off of the surface.

The Ganthier references discloses wherein said support portion further comprises an indent on a bottom portion of the support portion (see figure 6, elements 136 and 138) so as to allow said cable to pass under the support portion with sufficient room so as to not lift the support portion off of the surface (see column 5, lines 36-39).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, and further in view of Ganthier et al., US 6,081,422 to have the support portion further comprises an indent on a bottom portion of the support portion so as to allow said cable to pass under the support portion with sufficient room so as to not lift the support portion off of the surface in order that the cable does not interfere with the camera remaining level.

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3. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Inubushi et al., US 6,148,075.

In regard to claim 6, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, discloses the camera dock of claim 1. The Morikawa reference discloses function buttons (see column 37, lines 16-21), but neither the Morikawa or Conoval reference discloses that the mounting portion further comprises at least one illuminated button for activating/deactivating a first function.

Inubushi et al., US 6,148,075, teaches using illuminated buttons on an electronic device, in this case a mobile phone, to enable the user to operate the device even in the night or in dark places (see column 1, lines 12-18).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, and further in view of Inubushi et al., US 6,148,075, to have an illuminated function buttons to switch between the to control various functions of the device and that can be operated in a dark place.

In regard to claim 7, modify Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, and further in view of Inubushi et al., US 6,148,075, discloses the camera dock of Claim 6. The Morikawa reference discloses wherein said first function is selected is a TV mode wherein the TV Tuner (see figure 35, element 1336) receives predetermined TV signals selected by using the tuning buttons (see column 10, lines 27-29).

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In regard to claim 8, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, discloses the camera dock of Claim 1. The Morikawa reference discloses wherein said mounting portion further comprises a first button that activates/deactivates a television function (see figure 32, element 1159: top button and see column 37, lines 21-22), a second button (see figure 32, element 1159: bottom button) and a third button (see figure 32, element 1158) wherein each button activates/deactivates a particular function (see column 37, lines 16-22).

The Morikawa reference discloses an embodiment wherein the camera dock comprises a card seal printer with a plurality of key switches that the user uses to selectively instructs various processes including a printing process (see column 48, lines 3-15).

Official Notice is taken that it is well known in the art to have a camera dock have a function button that activates/deactivates a PC function, in order to transfer image data to and from the PC.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, and further in view of Inubushi et al., US 6,148,075, to have a illuminated function button to activate/deactivate a printing process and an illuminated function button to activate/deactivate a PC function in order to transfer image data to these devices from the camera.

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6. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Grein et al., US 2001/0033344.

In regard to claim 13, Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, discloses the camera dock of Claim 1, comprising a digital camera (see figure 33, element 1101) coupled to the mounting portion, the digital camera comprising a processor (see figure 34, element 1016), the processor being programmed to operate the digital camera as a camera prior to docking (see column 40, lines 9-12), detecting docking of the digital camera to the camera dock (see column 36, lines 36-52). The Morikawa and Conoval references do not disclose comprising a timer and converting to operation as an electronic picture frame after a selected time from docking as timed by the timer.

Grein et al., US 2001/0033344, discloses a electronic picture frame with an LCD that can be used with a digital camera wherein the LCD displays images or videos for when the unit is not being utilized similar to the role of a screensaver (see paragraph 46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Morikawa et al., US 5,528,285, in view of Conoval, US 6,400,903, and further in view of Grein et al., US 2001/0033344 to have a timer and converting to operation as an electronic picture frame after a selected time from docking as timed by the timer in order to display images when the display is not being utilized.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 14-25 are allowed.

8. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art does not disclose the combination of limitations of the claimed invention, including: a trigger device for raising and lowering a first connector located within the hollow post wherein said first connector mates with a complementary connector located within the mounting hole of the camera as claimed in claim 14.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gevell Selby whose telephone number is 703-305-8623. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 PM (every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's acting supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 703-305-4725. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gvs


TUAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER